Miss Estlin 1854

Park St. Bristol. Mar. 25—
1854.

Dearest Mrs Chapman,

How very kind it was of you to appoint that M.A. signal of intelligence while my hands were too full to attempt writing. I did want sadly to put you in possession of the condition of our household, & to thank you for your too welcome loving letters; but the demands of each passing hour forbade the indulgence. You will have seen in Mr Pillsbury's handwriting on the papers evidences of his continued amendment; it is most cheering to find him daily relinquishing one trace after another of invalidism. As soon as the east-wind goes we hope he will be released from his imprisonment & permitted to walk out; meanwhile as his strength returns his desire for activity & exercise increases, so that I have to substitute gambols for nursing-arts, & to ransack my hoards for flying-mercuries, battledores, shuttlecocks, cups & balls &c. &c. to keep him in exercise, & I *have* even attempted an elementary *dancing* *lesson*! (dont blaze us abroad, or teacher & pupil will be alike pronounced demented) So you see things are mending apace with him, since Sunday when he first had on his clothes & got up to dinner. *Now* he is in the drawing-room by breakfast-time, & is growing independent of his nurses, except that he still has a fancy for being *put* to *sleep* at night like a child who has been spoiled by ro*ck*ing. [Till this, last duty of the day is performed my hands are rarely free to write, & midnight soon arrives after taking up the pen.] My other charge is very stationary. He is never free from giddiness, & rarely long together without an accession of fever. He cannot bear exercise as it aggravates these symptoms & consequently his time is divided between bed & the easy chair in the drawing-room. His hand has not regained any strength since his last attack of paralysis; he *does* con*tri*ve by some skillful management to help himself with it in dressing & feeding, but there are many departments of these ordinarily mechanical operations that now prove toils, & some which with all his devices he cannot accomplish unaided. This retrogression & the constant sensation of giddiness, ~~and~~ as well as of helplessness, & weakness, are very depressing to him, - tho' he permits no eye but mine to take cognizance of his state of feeling; he is always extremely animated as long as any friend is with him, & becomes almost excited in conversation whatever the topic may be, so the *general* impression is that he is very well except a little temporary feverish cold caught about 2 months ago which has left him under the necessity of staying at home more than before he was affected by it, & that as soon as warm weather comes he will be about again enjoying his walks & rides. Perhaps he may, time will show; he is far enough from

it now, or from the power of conceivin
such a revival. I am content to live o
day by day without anticipation. The
is nothing very bright to look forward
but—I am thankful, to add,—nothing of
more than transitory darkness, in our
prospect. This was not meant to
be a letter filled up with domestic
details, dearest Mrs Chapman. I beg
it late last night & disposed of them, for—
but a summons to send off this (~~with~~ a little parcel
to-day, instead of to-morrow night, bri
me to a sudden close. Mr Spark, our
neighbour, takes charge of a few copies
of my Fathers "Brief Notice", & of a pamph
brought by Mr Pillsbury, which you wil
find at Meurice's Rue d. Rivoli, directed for you. M
S. will return to Bristol on Thursd
or Friday & kindly consents to bring
us anything small that you or Mr Hovey may
consign to his charge. I cannot decy
exactly Mlle Le Comte's new name, so
inscribe the B. N. with the familiar lette
word. Will you offer her our warm con
gratulations on her marriage? What a

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(I presume she is married ere now)
blessing her husband (?) must have proved
to your sisters! We had a kind letter from
them since they reached Pau & rejoice
at the improved accounts of the invalid.
My Father augurs from Miss Weston's details
of her sister's case that her chances of
restoration are very good.

I have been requested to furnish some
very interesting & valuable acquaintance of ours with
a letter of introduction to you, which
I shall do most readily as I am per-
suaded you will like them. They are
a mother & daughter - both widows -
the former in such bad health they
she will not probably be able to go about,
~~but~~ she goes to Paris on her daughter's account.
Mrs Russell Taylor is the name of the
daughter, her husband was the editor
of the Manchester Guardian; who
died in a fever (a victim to homoeopathy
some maintain) after he had been
married just twelve months. Mrs

Taylor is a very intelligent cultivated
person(no Abolitionist but with capacity
for many other of the right elements for
becoming one,) with considerable in-
fluence & property which she devotes
to philanthropic objects,- her mother
Mrs Gideon Acland, is a sweet, gentle,
refined woman who spent many years
of her life in Canada where her husband
died. She is a sister in law of Mrs
Armstrong's, a great friend of my Aunt
Emma's & of mine - at least we were
very intimate & very much attached
to her when she was in this neighbourhood
Ill-health on both sides has checked
communication latterly, since she
went to live with her daughter in Manchester
She has known many reverses & borne
them admirably. Her daughter on their return to England
energetically qualified herself for
teaching, & engaged in the work, ~~hoping~~ with a view
to assisting in her mother's support, as bro

health put a stop to all Mrs Acland's efforts to provide for herself after her husband's death, - but Emily's marriage with Mr Taylor put an end to these trials, tho' their visions of domestic joy were barely tasted before they were sitting (parted) She had a little girl, who only survived the father two or three months. Now you will not need more than a card or a single line from me to introduce them whenever they go to Paris. They will not demand any special services at your hands, but long for the pleasure of your acquaintance. I meant to have sorted out various recent letters for your entertainment, but can only enclose a few copies that have been in waiting some weeks for an accompanying line. Mr Steinthal is a noble spirit! I wish I had the first letter he wrote to me Chamerovzow, & some private ones to

his, you would understand this piecem better
Mr Chw is I imagine drifting New organi-
zationward, Mrs Chesson is silent. You
will be glad to learn that Mr G.
Thompson's daughter is likely to
recover. So we heard from Prof. Allen
who has just been in Bristol.

With love to your daughters &c
Believe me Most Affecly yours

Mary A Estlin

Miss O'Reilley wrote to my Father just
before she left Paris. I have acknowledged
her letter & given her a message from
my Father. He & Mr Pillsbury
are sitting in two arm chairs by the
drawing fire as I write this talking
politics, so excuse all incoherencies.
I have all the time to keep my ears open & my eyes
watching that they may not hurt each
other.

MS. A.9.2.28.7